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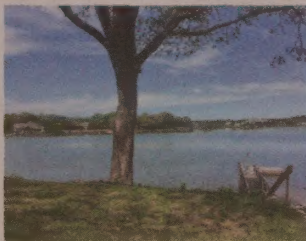
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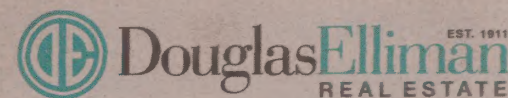
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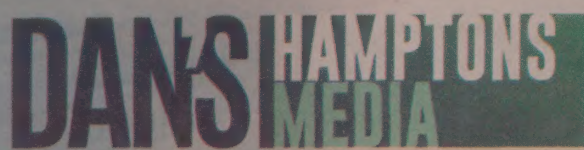
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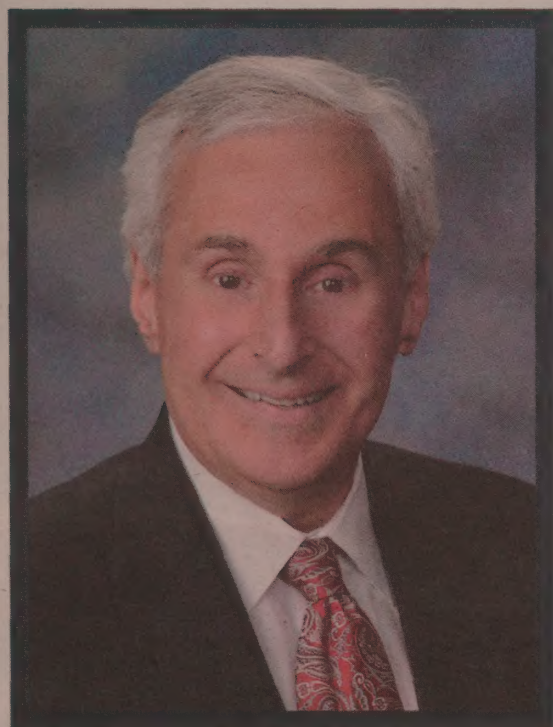


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10. WHO PAYS TAXES AND INSURANCE?

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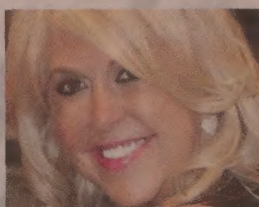
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FEBRUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 13, 2019

OUT & ABOUT ON THE EAST END

WHAT TO DO. WHERE TO GO. WHERE TO PLAY.



Comedian Pete Lee

FEBRUARY 7, 8 P.M.

Lift your spirits at WHBPAC's Toasted Thursdays, featuring the hottest comedy acts, rock-show documentaries and more! Get ready to laugh until your sides hurt with opener Mark DeMayo and headliner Pete Lee, touted as the first standup comedian to get a standing ovation on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Voted a standout performer at the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, Lee has an impressive list of television appearances on shows including *Last Comic Standing*, *As the World Turns*, *Best Week Ever*, *Greatest Ever*, *Comedy Knockout*, *Roast Battle* and *NFL Rush*. Tickets are \$25.

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OUT & ABOUT ON THE EAST END

WHAT TO DO. WHERE TO GO. WHERE TO PLAY.



"VIVIAN'S MUSIC, 1969" FEBRUARY 7, 9:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

Written by Monica Bauer and directed by Glory Kadigan, this powerful play is inspired by the 1969 race riot sparked by a white police officer shooting and killing a 14-year-old African-American girl. This musical fantasia showcases two actors giving voice to a story as relevant today as it was then. Adult tickets are \$15 and include one free student ticket, otherwise students \$10.

Guild Hall
158 Main Street, East Hampton
631-324-0806, guildhall.org



TUCKAHOE SWAMP PRESERVE HIKE FEBRUARY 9, 10 A.M.

Join the South Fork Natural History Museum and the Southampton Trails Preservation Society for a two-mile hike along a beautiful forest trail. See the unique Tuckahoe Swamp Preserve firsthand and take in the beauty of its winding brooks, towering trees and diverse wildlife. Meet at the intersection of Millstone Brook Road and Scotts Road. Free, but registration is required.

Wolf Swamp Sanctuary
Call for directions to meeting place
631-537-9735, sofo.org



VALENTINE CRAFT MARKET FEBRUARY 9, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Explore a wide selection of fine art and handmade crafts, featuring prints by Ken Robbins, fiber arts, accessories, home décor, ceramics, jewelry, leather goods, children's knits and more. There will also be plenty of tasty artisanal treats for that special foodie in your life, including Viennese cookies, cakes, truffles, Greek condiments, savories, sweets and more. Free admission.

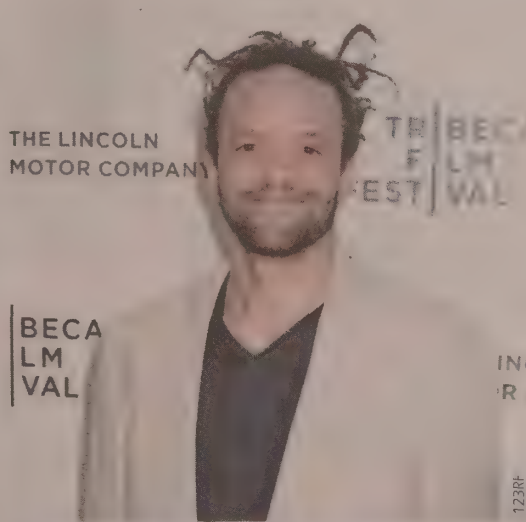
Ashawagh Hall
780 Springs Fireplace Road, Springs
631-234-5678, ashawagh-hall.org



"TAKEOVER! ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE" RECEPTION FEBRUARY 9, 5 P.M.

For seven weeks, the Southampton Arts Center hands over its galleries to nine East End artists, each with an assigned space to set up a pop-up studio. Meet the artists—Scott Bluedorn, Daniel Cabrera, Darlene Charneco, Kara Hoblin, Ruby Jackson, Laurie Lambrecht, Jerome Lucani, Paton Miller and Jeff Muhs—at a fun, public opening reception. Free admission.

Southampton Arts Center
25 Jobs Lane, Southampton
631-283-0967, southamptonartscenter.org



SAVION GLOVER IN ALL FUNK'D UP FEBRUARY 9, 8 P.M.

The epitome of a living legend, Tony Award-winning choreographer and tap dancer Savion Glover and his troupe return to the Staller Center to dance to an eclectic soundtrack by a six-piece band and multiple DJs. See Glover bring to life classic grooves, hip-hop, blues, soul, one-of-a-kind funk jams and more as only a tap master can. Tickets \$52.

Staller Center for the Arts
100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook
631-632-2787, staller.sunysb.edu



KATY'S COURAGE SKATE-A-THON FEBRUARY 10, 3 P.M.

Katy's Courage hosts its eighth annual skate-a-thon at Buckskill Winter Club. The day of fun includes a puck throw, figure skating recitals, skate-a-thon, raffle drawings, hockey game and more. A bake sale featuring all sorts of goodies will take place throughout the event, with all proceeds benefitting Katy's Courage. Registration forms are available online.

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Bridgehampton's **Sarah Jessica Parker** reprised her beloved role as Carrie Bradshaw for a Super Bowl commercial last Sunday. In the *Sex and the City*-inspired ad, Parker reenacts the HBO hit's opening scene by getting splashed with water as she walks down a New York City street. The commercial promoted both Stella Artois and Water.org, which strives to provide clean water to communities in need around the world. Says Parker as Bradshaw, "You make a little change to do a lot of good." In other *Sex and the City* news, bestselling author and Sag Harborite **Candace Bushnell** announced last week that a new installment of the popular series is coming soon. *Is There Still Sex in the City?* will be set in the Hamptons and feature new scintillating storylines inspired by her personal experiences. *Is There Still Sex in the City?* hits shelves in August.



SARAH JESSICA PARKER

Congratulations to Shelter Island's **Andy Cohen** of *Watch What Happens Live!* The Bravo personality and producer has had his first child via surrogate, **Benjamin Allen**.



ALEC BALDWIN

Amagansett's **Alec Baldwin** is fighting for the environment. In a recent article for CNN, Baldwin writes that how we eat directly impacts the planet, and he encourages a plant-based diet. He says, "We can feed the world with the land we have. While our current food systems are causing great harm to the planet, as well as our health, it does not have to be this way. There's a better path, and it starts with our diets. Now, what are you doing to do about it?" East Hampton power couple **Jay-Z** and **Beyoncé** are partnering with Greenprint Project to give away a lifetime of concert tickets. Inspired by *The Greenprint: Plant-Based Diet, Best Body, Best World*, written by **Beyoncé's** trainer, **Marco Borges**, the Greenprint Project advocates a vegan diet. To enter the contest, fans need only to vow to eat more plant-based meals.

Followers of fashion are raving about Montauk designer **Ralph Lauren's** Purple Label fall 2019 collection for men

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

"WE BREED OUR OWN SINCE 1962"

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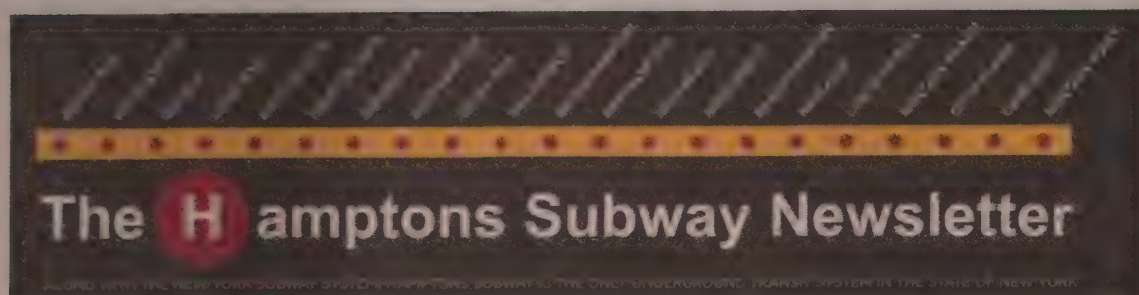
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BY DAN RATTINER

Week of February 1–7, 2019
 Riders this past week: 23,812
 Rider miles this past week: 95,622

DOWN IN THE TUBE

Author Robert Caro was seen last Tuesday morning traveling from Sag Harbor to East Hampton carrying a large bust of Lyndon Johnson on his lap. Steven Spielberg and Paul McCartney were seen on the Hamptons Subway traveling from Amagansett to Montauk on Thursday morning laughing at something one of them said. Hillary Clinton was seen traveling from Southampton to Noyac on Monday morning in the company of Mike Bloomberg and Kamala Harris.

HELIUM BALLOONS

Our two dead-end stops are Coopers Beach and Main Beach. Both are spurs off their downtown stops, Southampton and East Hampton respectively, and both are only open in the summertime. A festive theme prevails. Beach Boys music is blared out over the platforms. Surfboards are mounted on the walls. Party balloons lurk under the ceilings, moved this way

and that by the cool summer breezes. The beach umbrella and towel rental unit is open.

Many supplies are ordered for these stations in February. And this past week, a delivery of 50,000 balloons to each station went awry when Amazon left the boxes containing them on the exterior decks adjacent to the beachside doors, where 40-mile-an-hour winds and -5° temperatures ripped open the boxes and tore away the contents out to sea. The weird thing is that these balloons were delivered flat. Inflation would occur in May, just before the stations open. And yet, they have been floating in from the sea everywhere, inflated, by the dozens every day. Round up any you find and prick them with a sharp implement to bang them back to flat. You can recognize our balloons because all are silver with the words COWABONGA on one side and YO DUDE on the other. Bring the remains to our Hamptons Subway office in Hampton Bays. We've set out several bins to receive them. No fully inflated balloons please.

NEW YORK SUBWAY ATTACKS

Hamptons Subway has been the victim of several cyber attacks from the New York Subway System as our relations with them deteriorate. The New

York Subway ordered one attack Wednesday, which shut down service all through the afternoon hours. In another attack on Saturday, leaflets sprinkled down with a warning that worse will come. Their goal seems to be to infiltrate the upper levels of Hamptons Subway's administration computers with the intention of getting resignations so the New York Subway powers step in. Never going to happen. Hamptons Subway riders are urged to be alert. If you see something, say something. And keep your possessions close at all times. Commissioner Aspinall says New York Subway is the #1 threat to Hamptons Subway. We all have to do our part.

RUSSIAN ORDERS

Last week, between three and four in the afternoon, the mechanical voice began speaking "Watch out for the closing doors" in a Brooklyn accent. Our agents have since traced this back through Brooklyn to Caracas, Venezuela. President Trump has been made aware of the situation and, we are told, two platoons of Marines are on their way. Trump is giving a major address about this latest threat at 9 p.m. tomorrow evening from aboard the Intrepid Aircraft Carrier at Pier 86 in Manhattan. Stay tuned.

COMMISSIONER ASPINALL'S MESSAGE

Beginning next week, all Hamptons Subway employees will be undergoing a thorough background check whether they have had one before or not. The alarming trend continues! But you will be safe. New York Subway is now rated #3 threat after #1 the Mexican border and #2 Venezuela. 🐞

Police BLOTTER

COMPILED BY DANIEL KOONTZ

POLICE ISSUÉ POLAR VORTEX WARNING

As the Hamptons experienced single-digit temperatures due to the polar vortex last week, the Hamptons Police issued an urgent reminder to residents not to play the banjo outside.

"In years past, we've had very tragic incidents of banjo players getting caught in the polar vortex and freezing solid," says Hamptons Police spokesman Larry Hirsch. "We're asking during this cold snap for everybody to keep the banjo playing indoors, or even to take a few days off."

The trouble apparently starts when a banjo player is playing in single-digit temperatures and

his or her hand gets stuck to the metal frame of the instrument due to the extreme cold. "It's like getting your tongue stuck to the swingset pole," says Hirsch. As the banjo player concentrates on trying to peel his or her hand from the metal of the banjo, he or she fails to notice that the rest of his body is turning into an ice cube.

The police say that this year no banjo players have turned up frozen yet.

PROTESTS ERUPT OVER LEAF BLOWER BAN

Loud angry protests erupted at a Wednesday night meeting of the Hamptons Planning Board, as landscapers reacted strongly against a new proposal to ban loud gas-powered leaf blowers during the summer months. The landscapers accused the Planning Board of trying to put them out of business, and shouted down board members who attempted to explain the reasons behind the policy.

The Hamptons Police were called to preserve order, as the situation threatened to escalate into violence.

"You complain about the noise," shouted one landscaper, who was evidently quite hard of hearing.

"But there's literally no other way to remove the leaves and debris." Another landscaper, his ears encumbered by large hearing aids, loudly denied that gas-powered leaf blowers are disruptive to quiet neighborhoods. "What could be more pleasant than the gentle thrum of the leaf blower at 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning?" he asked. "I'm standing right next to it, and it practically puts me to sleep!"

A third landscaper, who communicated his thoughts through a sign language interpreter, had a more scientific argument. "The dried leaves are rich in nitrogen," he pointed out. "It's a very important nutrient for the health of garden beds. Therefore, it's vitally important that all of the leaves be removed from garden beds so that they can be used as fertilizer on garden beds, and gas-powered leaf blowers are the most efficient way to do this." Members of the Hamptons Planning Board appeared to be unmoved and the protest broke up without incident. A final decision regarding leaf blowers is expected soon. 🐞

Read more Hamptons Police Blotter on DansPapers.com.



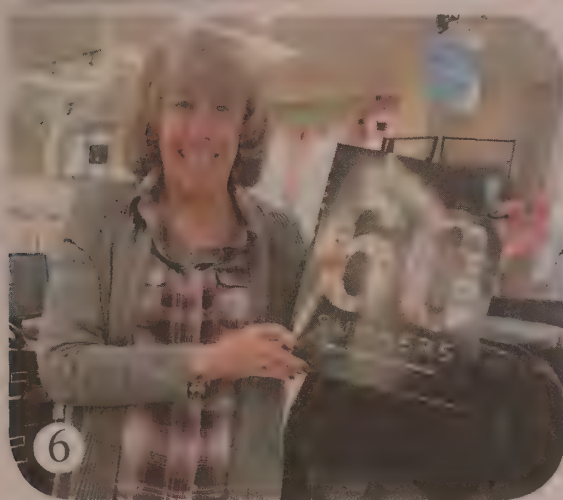
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Dan's Papers 60 Summers Is Here!

The Dan's Papers 60 Summers celebration is going to be a year-long party, and the fun has kicked off in a big way. Throughout 2019 we will be toasting 60 incredible seasons with everyone in the Hamptons and on the North Fork, and a number of our 60 Summers Gold Sponsors have already joined the revelry with the publication of our coffee table book titled...what else...60 Summers: Celebrating Six Iconic Decades on the East End.



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2. Enzo Morabito, Douglas Elliman
3. Jason Parli DDS, Beach Dental
4. Chris Cariello, I North Steakhouse
5. Sal Biundo, Centro Trattoria & Bar
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Popup McMansion

Mansion Is Here Today, Then with the Push of a Remote, Gone Tomorrow



BY DAN RATTINER

Barnaby Zack looks like anybody else you might meet at a party in the Hamptons. Late 40s, tall, black hair, torn jeans. But make no mistake, Zack is something special. He has gotten approval from the Southampton Town Board to build Pop Up McMansions.

Last week he took me on a drive in his Tesla from my home in East Hampton to Water Mill to show me the first of what he says will be hundreds of these homes. Along the way I asked him how he came upon this idea.

"It was easy," he said. "I looked at one of the popup stores on Jobs Lane. Then I went to Mecox and sized up a new McMansion. And it just came to me. *Boing.*"

"What did?"

"Build a McMansion in a farm field that pops up when you need to use it on a weekend, then lowers below the ground when not in use so it can be a farm field."

"That would be amazing."

"Yup. It's good for the environment. It doesn't spoil the view. And you grow potatoes. Then you can have fundraisers and parties over the weekend. And I'm going to show you one. You use the remote."

Zack leaned way over to pop open the glove compartment. We were going 50 miles an hour.

"You've taken your eyes off the road."

"Here's the remote," he said holding it up. "And driving's no problem. Right?"

"That's correct, sir," a female voice said.

"Who was that?"

"This is an experimental fully self-drive Tesla. We should have it in production next year, Elon Musk and I."

"Elon Musk is good," the female voice said.

From here on in for the rest of the drive, Zack was talking with me and looking at me at the same time. It was amazing. He was leaving the driving to her. He put the remote back in the glove compartment.

"Tell me a little bit about yourself," I said.

"Not much to tell. Dad a New York City fireman. Child prodigy. Harvard. Then inventions."

He pressed a button and the sunroof opened. The cold from outside blew in but was then instantly warmed.

"Thanks," he said.

"You're welcome sir," she said.

He pointed up and off to one side of the sky. We were in Wainscott.

"That's one of my inventions up there," he said.

"Where? What?"

"You can't see it. Amazon is delivering a package by drone. It's a stealth drone."

"Amazon doesn't deliver by drones," I ventured.

"Oh yes they do. Right to everybody's front porch. Been that way for six months. You've seen the stuff on the porches, right?"

"Yes."

"Well, there you are. I invented the stealth drone. Sold 630,000 to Jeff."

"Bezos."

"Yes."

"I don't see any package."

"What my stealth drone holds gets stealthed, too. Until delivery. Drone sets it down, flies away."

"And you can see it do that?"

"No."

We were in Bridgehampton.

"Any other things I should know about?"

"You know that high-speed transport system Elon is working on that will get you from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 45 minutes?"

"Yes."

"Well, that's my idea, too. Currently, that's what I'm working on. Should have it by the end of the year. Also will be here in the Hamptons. Penn Station to Southampton in four minutes and eight seconds. We have it in testing right now."

"Where?"

"Right down the center median of the Long Island Expressway."

"I haven't seen it there."

"Exactly."

"Have you ever had a failure?"

"Of course. Failures are just like successes. You learn from them. I learned from mine. But my failure did get me into Harvard."

"It did?"

"It was a long time ago. I was 11. My dad bought me a chemistry set. I invented New Coke."

"What was New Coke?"

"It tasted great. I sold it to Coca-Cola. They pulled all the old Coca-Cola off the shelves and

replaced it with my formula, New Coke. That's what got me into Harvard."

"You must have been the youngest person ever to get into Harvard."

"Well, I didn't care one way or another about that. What I did care about was that after a few months the whole country wanted the old Coca-Cola formula back. The whole country, they just didn't get it."

"That must have been a big disappointment for you."

"It was. Finally, after a year, Coca-Cola brought back the original Coca-Cola. Everybody loved it. They kept New Coke on for a while, but then after a year, sales plummeted, so they took it off the market entirely."

"What a blow."

"That's why you see the word *original* on Coca Cola cans. Or *classic*. Still that way."

"Wow."

"But I learned from it."

"What did you learn?"

"If they knock you down, get up. Failures are what bring out success to come. The sun still rises in the morning. If you get lemons, turn it into lemonade. I thought up that last phrase. Every time someone says 'If you get lemons, turn it into lemonade,' I get a penny."

"It adds up."

"It does."

"So you finished at Harvard?"

"Of course not. Harvard wasn't for me. I didn't get it. Did a lot of pranks and so forth, then they threw me out. Another blow."

"Lots of geniuses get thrown out of Harvard."

"I did meet Jeff and Elon there. But they went their way and I went mine. Also Mark."

"Zuckerberg."

"Yeah."

"You doing anything with him?"

"Yup. But I can't yet tell you."

"We are at your destination, sir," the female voice said.

We'd pulled over next to a large farm field. Maybe 10 acres. The doors opened and we got out.

"So here we are," Zack said, waving his arm at the big, empty field.

"I don't see anything," I said.

"Well, yes you do. You see the farm field. The owners are not here. So you don't see the mansion."

"Can you make it rise up using the remote?"

"Of course not. The owners have a different remote. Also the password. Only they can make that happen. And they're not here now."

"Who are the owners?"

"Well, that's private."

"At least tell me what happens."

"So whenever they get here, they take out their programmed remote and click McMansion. The potato fields unzip and peel back slowly—it takes about two minutes—and they just stop when they get to the OPEN position. Then, automatically, the McMansion, which is on a beautiful landscaped lawn, slowly rises from below. This takes another two minutes. The lawn with the house on it clicks into place. And there you are."

"Swimming pool?"

"And tennis courts. The usual."

"How do you keep the lawn beautiful while it's underground?"

"Stupid question. There's a sprinkler system."

"What about the rolled-up potato field on each side?"

"That was the hardest thing to program. It's a toggle on the remote. You toggle and it turns into hedgerows. Toggle back and it becomes the rolled-up potato fields with the dirt and roots sticking out. Your choice."

"Can I walk out there and see where the potato field seams come together?"

"I wouldn't do that."

"I really want to look," I said. And so I commenced walking out across the field between the potato plant rows. Zack followed me, carrying the remote.

"Well..." he said. And at that moment, a farmer with a pitchfork appeared and started toward me. He looked very angry.

"This is private property!" the farmer said.

"Hold on," Zack said behind me. I turned just

in time to see Zack raise the remote and point it at the farmer, who went *Eeeeeek!* and disappeared into a puff of smoke.

"We have to get back to the car," Zack said. He put an arm around me and turned me back toward the car.

And so, we got back to East Hampton, not talking anymore. When we got to my house, the female voice said "Here we are," and I thanked her and Zack.

"Learned a lot," I said. "Farmer okay?"

"He's a hired hand. A sharecropper for the potatoes. I wouldn't worry about it."

"Well, thanks for the tour and the interview. This is a great story," I said. I held out my arm and we shook hands.

And with that, Zack and his lady friend drove off. 🚗



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Full Speed Ahead

Projects in the Works to Stop the Trade Parade & Create Affordable Housing



BY DAN RATTINER

Local governments throughout the Hamptons have been busier than I have ever seen, trying to find ways to create affordable housing in this community.

As you know, almost any little humble abode you could find for sale in the Hamptons will set you back no less than \$500,000. Indeed, if you find one for sale, you will probably already be bidding against a New York summer person who could well afford that price.

Thus, our children can't afford this community, and the people who live and work here can't afford the community. If they work here or want to be near here, they have to either have inherited a home from relatives or have to drive out on the Sunrise Highway from Brookhaven and other points west, where there are homes more affordable. Thus we have the "trade parade" every morning, where eastbound traffic crawls to a standstill for two hours, and late in the day this parade, the other way, does the same thing.

But help is on the way. On March 4, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) is adding two trains for commuters. The first will begin in the west every morning at Speonk at 5:16 a.m., make 10 stops,

and conclude in Amagansett around 7:15 a.m. The second train from Hampton Bays leaves at 8:26 a.m. and ends in Montauk about an hour later. These will be in addition to the regular morning train that begins in Manhattan and makes every stop out here. Getting off at a destination station in the Hamptons, those on board will be able to take "last mile" busses to destinations beyond walking distance from the station. This effort has been approved for one year as an experiment by the State of New York. Bus shuttle service from the train stations is being negotiated to be contracted out to Hampton Jitney and Hampton Hopper. Cost of a round trip? Around \$8.50. It will help.

And there is much else.


East Hampton Town has just unanimously approved the purchase of four acres in North Wainscott for a new affordable housing project on land formerly owned by the Triune Baptist Church. It is expected that eventually a total of 27 below-market homes will be built there.

Meanwhile, a project approved in 2018 by the East Hampton Housing Authority for affordable housing on land in Amagansett east of the Amagansett IGA will have a groundbreaking ceremony this spring.

This project will be 37 units.

Southampton Town, meanwhile, is considering a proposal to provide farm labor housing on an eight-acre agricultural reserve on Butter Lane in Bridgehampton. There seems to be precedent for this. Some years ago, farm worker housing was approved for both Wölffer Estate Stables in Sagaponack and Two Trees Farm in Hayground. This current farmland, however, is adjacent to several McMansions. The property is owned by a New York hedge fund executive, whose name is hidden behind a limited liability company. The proposal reportedly requests two new buildings, one with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a dining room and living room, and the other with one bedroom, a kitchen, dining room and a living room, which makes one wonder if this isn't just a guest house application in disguise, which would not be allowed. There are ways to prevent that.

In any case, it did result in a woman who owns one of the nearby McMansions objecting to the proposed farm housing and saying that if it goes ahead as planned, with the farm housing 70 feet from her swimming pool, "my kids don't understand how they can do this. My girls say they will never use the pool again."



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Whatever that meant. This was quoted in the *Southampton Press*.

Meanwhile, a New York Court of Appeals has refused to consider an appeal by the Long Island Pine Barrens Society that had challenged the building of farm-related structures—barns, greenhouses, sheds, stables, employee housing on preserved farmland. There had apparently been what looked like a loophole in the original law that would result in no such things being allowed, or at least those filing the lawsuit thought. Turns out there is no loophole.

Then there is the Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center on the Sag Harbor Turnpike. In the 1940s and 1950s, the local potato farmers brought busloads of African-Americans up from the South to help with the potato harvest and potato packing during every July, August and September, and to live in farm barracks buildings that had no heat, septic or running water. In one of these barracks in 1949, the women were called out to join the men doing the picking, leaving the children in the barracks by themselves for the day. A fire broke out and two children died. As a result, the farmers got together and said this should never happen again, and they bought and donated to a nonprofit a small six-acre farm on the turnpike to the community to use as a childcare center when the parents were working.

The interesting part of this is that here in 2019, exactly 70 years later, the Child Care Center—hoping to replace the broken-down 1,800-square-foot farmhouse building with a new 7,000-square-foot structure—has just announced they have enough money donated

by generous philanthropic people set aside to begin construction. They hope to have permits in order before this year is out. They give thanks to all who donated. The cost will be approximately \$1.8 million. Here will be after-school lectures, classes for dance, college prep, computer skills, chess, music, acting, soccer, basketball, baseball and, of course, childcare, all for those in need in this area. What a great thing!

And there is still more!

Southampton Town two weeks ago unanimously approved an interesting plan to allow homeowners to build accessory apartments on their properties throughout the town. There are restrictions. The property must be located in a low-density area (fewer than 500 people per square mile), as defined in the law, and rents charged can be no greater than federal housing standards for low-moderate and middle-income tenants. And the prospective tenants must prove low incomes to qualify for the apartments.

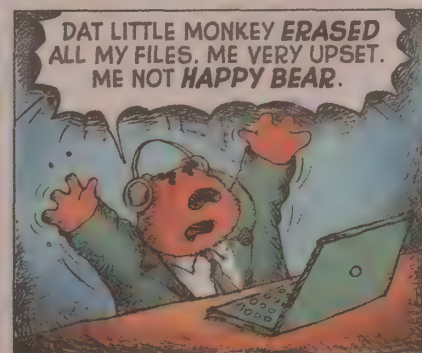
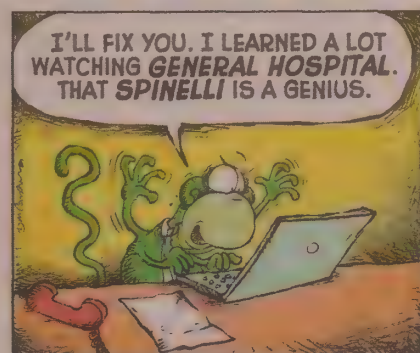
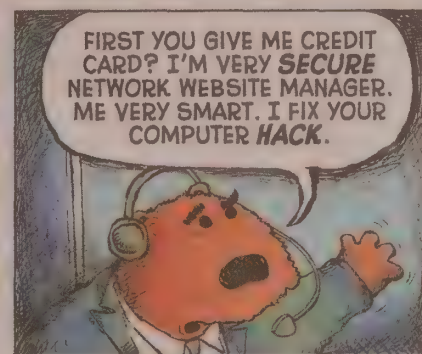
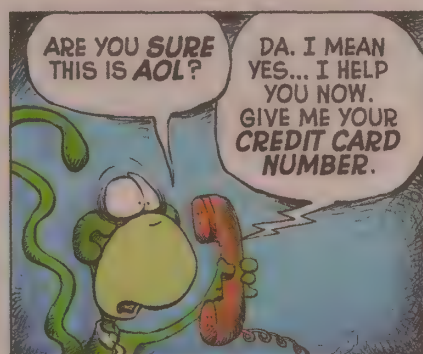
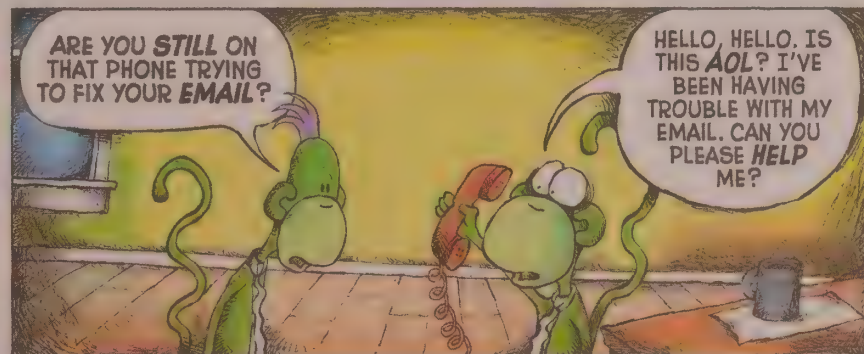
As you may know, Donald Trump had about a dozen employees of one of his golf clubs summarily fired because they were immigrants here without proper papers. Well, now there is a groundswell in this community, led by a local chapter of the New York Progressive Action Network, to repeal a state law that refuses to give undocumented people driver's licenses. That law went into effect in 2005. Before that, illegal immigrants and others could apply and get driver's licenses. Half a dozen progressive groups are trying to get Albany to go back to how it was. As you know, when our police give out tickets to drivers without licenses, these people can wind

up in the clutches of ICE, the federal immigration service, which, even with no criminal record, sometimes earmarks them for deportation.

Finally, just this past week, our local state assemblyman Fred Thiele announced a new state bill that would in the end provide millions of dollars to our local towns for housing for low-income people. As you probably know, there is currently a law, administered by the county, that in every real estate transaction in the Hamptons above \$250,000, the amount above that sum is subject to a 2% real estate transfer tax that is used to preserve open space. Thiele's bill would be for all five East End towns. It would raise the \$250,000 to \$350,000 in Shelter Island, East Hampton and Southampton towns (and go from \$150,000 to \$250,000 in Riverhead and Southold) and increase the tax above that amount to 2.5%, with the extra 0.5% used to fund this new Town Community Housing Fund.

It's been a cold winter. People have begun to think about important things. And a lot is being done.

I almost included in this report a land purchase by East Hampton Village. It's going to be a teardown. The Village is buying a one-acre property with a home on it that sits on the edge of Hook Pond. The cost of the purchase is \$4.8 million. The house is a small mansion of no great architectural importance and, when removed, will leave the land in its natural state. With the septic system gone, it will help the ecology of the pond, and will reduce by one the number of houses out here that need low income workers from the trade parade to take care of it. ■



Be Bad

Here's a Blizzard of Things You Can Do to Disobey Hamptons Laws

STRAW WARS



BY DAN RATTINER

East Hampton Town is considering banning or greatly restricting the use of helium balloons in that town. After all, such balloons, usually with a silver coating, can be found every day on our beautiful beaches, having washed up after a release from an occasion that is clearly written in bright colors on each balloon. Happy Birthday Joel! Congratulations on Your Marriage! Forty Great Years! Billy and Jolene! Welcome to Your Retirement! Hooray for Uncle Bob!

You might be watching gulls hovering over a wave, looking for dinner, or you might stumble upon some gorgeous driftwood. And you're thinking—who are Billy and Jolene? And why wasn't I invited to that party? What's far worse is what these balloons are doing to wildlife. Those that don't get blown ashore can drift along in the ocean to eventually get eaten by wildlife that will die a horrible death by starvation with the balloon stuck in their throats.

Nevertheless, in discussing this proposed legislation, the Town is considering exceptions. Nobody wants to give a ticket to a small girl who accidentally lets go of a helium balloon string and then screams and cries as it wanders up and off. The word "intentional" is being bandied about. If it's unintentional, that's okay, Jolene. And the ban will be only on helium or hydrogen balloons. Those that float up. Balloons with air in them that go sideways and not up are okay. And water balloons are not a problem, even if they explode when thrown. Suffolk County already has wrestled with this problem, but it's been a waste

of time. They passed an essentially useless law that excuses helium balloon releases at a party as long as it is less than 25 balloons on any given day. So you can release 24 balloons at a party on Monday, then release another 24 balloons Tuesday, then another 24 on Wednesday. This law is so awful, one thinks that maybe the helium balloon lobby had its way with the County Legislature when they were considering this law.

Nobody wants to give a ticket to a small girl who accidentally lets go of a helium balloon string and then screams and cries as it wanders up and off.

Here are some other things you should not do in our towns. There's a new law just passed against smoking outdoors in public in East Hampton Village. There's a law against harming a piping plover in Sagaponack. I believe Montauk has passed a law making it illegal for a restaurant to offer the use of a plastic straw. The State has a law that makes it a crime to import a mute white swan. White swans have been known to scare away other wildlife in town ponds. They're tyrants. And these swans are not indigenous. They were originally from Belgium. There's a dress code in effect in Southampton that requires anyone on the public street to cover themselves between the areola (the flat part of the nipple) and a point midway between the hip and the knee.

What would happen if every governmental agency banned these things in the Hamptons? If that happens, here's how to be really bad in America.

Go into town not covering yourself properly. Just wear a red tie and white plastic boots. Carry a bunch of helium balloons and slowly release them as you walk along, smoking a cigarette. On a leash you would have a white swan from Belgium for which you would have no doggie bag, so you'd veer off into wetlands and tramp about. You'd be carrying an alcoholic drink with a plastic straw in it, a boombox radio with the music way up loud while spraying fire-fighting foam all around from a tank-and-hose arrangement on your back. And you'd be quietly shooping a piping plover from rock to rock, giving it little scares to move it along. You could also throw rocks. Aim at windows. And with the hand not carrying the tank and hose, carry a gas-powered leaf blower. Turn it on when anybody approaches.

You would probably be arrested for doing this, but a judge will let you off with a warning if this basket of infractions was your first offence.

Free to go, you'd drive away in a stolen car that has an expired registration and inspection stickers on the windshield, then park it for three hours in a two-hour-maximum zone, and when you get back, erase the chalk marks on your tires with some kind of illegal acid that, if you get it on your hands you should go immediately to the emergency room.

Do all this, use curse words, pick your nose, pass gas and post an internet video of it all and it will go viral. 🐛

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SOUTH O' THE HIGHWAY

...AND NORTH, TOO



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

as a fabulous look back. Lauren, who staged his 50th anniversary show in September, has cherry-picked his decades of design for a colorful and comfy round-up of reimagined "best hits." Speaking of anniversaries that celebrate the sweet smell of success, supermodel **Taylor Hill**, her real-life boyfriend, **Michael Stephen Shank**, and her Labradoodle puppy, **Tate**, appear in the latest fragrance video and print campaign for Romance, Lauren's scent that was launched in 1999. Lauren was due to be decorated as an Officer of the Legion of Honor by French President **Emmanuel Macron** last month, but the ceremony was postponed to an unspecified date in 2019 due to political protests sparked by declining living standards. Lauren was made a Knight of the Legion of Honor by France in 2010 in recognition of his contributions as a designer, business leader and philanthropist.

On the small screens: South Fork regular **Joe Biden** isn't in any hurry. That's what the former Vice President told CNN last week when asked about his plans for the 2020 presidential race. With many expecting him to make a White House run, Biden said, "We're so far out and who knows what it's going to look like a year from now...I think we should be concentrating on figuring out how to deal with the damage right now." Amagansett's **Gwyneth Paltrow** and Netflix have officially sealed a deal that will see a 30-minute Goop series stream on the service. The as-yet untitled show will feature episodes related to physical and spiritual wellness and will be hosted by Paltrow and Goop Chief Content Officer **Elise Loehnen**. Sagaponack's **Drew Barrymore** hit the small screen in a new show last week following the Super Bowl. On *The World's Best*, a global talent competition, the actress shares a judges table with **Faith Hill** and **RuPaul**. *The World's Best* airs Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBS. Speaking of televised fun with RuPaul, Sag Harbor's **Ellen Pompeo** served as a guest judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 4* on VH1 last week. **Marisa Tomei** and Montauk resident **Julianne Moore** are cousins! The connection was discovered when Tomei recently appeared on the PBS show *Finding Your Roots*.

East Hampton's **Martha Stewart** just released a new group of goods for sale on Amazon, including footwear, pet supplies, gardening tools, crafting supplies and more. Notably, her footwear, created with Aerosoles, includes a stylish Bridgehampton Rain Boot at \$79.

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HONORING *the* ARTIST

This Week's Cover Artist: Neal Hughes

Cover artist Neal Hughes graduated from the Philadelphia College of Art and has competed in various "en plein air" contests across the country. This week's cover art, "Surf Fishing," is a familiar scene to East Enders.

What was the inspiration for this particular work?

I love the early morning light, and when I encountered a fisherman on the beach I was inspired to capture this scene. The colors are always richer during this time of day, and I tried to convey the sense of calm and the beauty of nature that I was experiencing.

How did you get started in art?

I always enjoyed art and the idea of creating something, and I was involved in drawing and painting from a very young age. I majored in illustration in college and was an illustrator for many years before switching to fine art.

How would you describe your artistic style?

I would describe my work as Impressionistic Realism.

What informs your work?

I mostly try to react to nature and the landscape. I like to make a connection between art and nature. Sometimes it can be the light—a sunrise or sunset or late-day shadows. I try to interpret



what I'm seeing so that it goes beyond just copying what is before me. I try to elevate the ordinary and

everyday and bring into focus the beauty that might otherwise be missed.

If you weren't an artist, what would you do?

I really can't imagine myself doing anything else, to be honest. I love what I do and it's a big part of who I am, and I feel very blessed to be an artist. But if for some reason I didn't have art in my life, I might be involved with building or carpentry in some capacity. Or with computer networking or programming. But it's very difficult to say for sure.

What artist would you most like to meet, and what would you talk about?

There are so many artists of the past I would enjoy meeting that it's hard to pick just one. A favorite of mine is John Singer Sargent, and I would love to talk to him about his travels and also about his painting methods. I'm very involved in painting on location—or "en plein air"—and besides being a great portrait painter he was a master at this type of work. It would be very interesting to speak with him about his experiences and to hear his thoughts on painting.

Neal Hughes' work can be seen locally at the William Ris Gallery in Jamesport. You can also visit nealhughes.com or check out his Instagram at [neal_hughes_art](https://www.instagram.com/neal_hughes_art).

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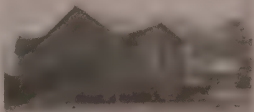
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A decorative sign for '1961 Summer CAMP!' is displayed against a blue background. The sign is a dark, house-shaped board with a wooden frame. The year '1961' is written in a small, white, rectangular box at the top. Below it, the words 'Summer' and 'CAMP!' are written in a large, white, cursive font. To the left of the sign is a large, orange starfish. To the right is a seashell. A red shovel is visible in the bottom right corner.

“Fully involve your child in the camp prep process! At WHBPAC, we have a contract that campers sign with their parents. This provides a great opportunity for parents and children to discuss expectations and also generate excitement! Look over what’s needed for the week, and involve your child in the planning. Most importantly, lots of sleep the night before camp—butterflies are normal, *CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

A MARYLLIS

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EMILL HOWE

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GIVE THE HORSE

Summer Camps (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

and a good night's sleep is key to combating nervous energy in the morning. The best way to prepare kids for summer camp in the winter months is to make sure they feel excited! If your child has no interest in volleyball, don't sign them up for a volleyball camp. Really listen to your child and choose a camp together. Otherwise, you'll be getting that dreaded phone call on a Monday in July, two hours in! Also, it's never too early to start preparing for camp, once you've chosen one. Our musical theater camps involve a fun audition on the first day—so to start combatting nerves now, we recommend that parents start talking about what makes a good audition—a loud clear voice, and lots of expression. If kids can start working toward what's involved in camp now, they'll feel so confident walking in on day one!"

—Josh Bracken, Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center (631-288-1500, whbpac.org)

"I would recommend getting the movie *Gypsy Colt* with Ward Bond and a copy of the old TV series *Fury*, the Tribute Collection with Peter Graves and Bobby Diamond. Both are found on Amazon. This immersion will be very helpful as they both depict the relationship between horse and child properly. An exceptional animated movie, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* is a good movie to watch as well. Since we are an



CHILDREN CAN DEVELOP NEW SKILLS AND INTERESTS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AT CAMP

entry-level camp, no prior experience is needed." —Christine Barrett-Distefano, Amaryllis Farm Equine Rescue (631-537-7335, amaryllisfarm.com)

"Parents can prepare their children for the Summer Ecology Program by encouraging an open-mindedness towards new experiences through outdoor exploration—otherwise, no prior knowledge is required! Because our Summer Ecology Program Camp includes hiking in the forest and other outdoor activities, we always recommend that children wear

comfortable sneakers, sunscreen and bug spray if warranted for the day, and a good night's sleep and breakfast so they are energized and excited for their experience." —Cara Fernandes, Quogue Wildlife Refuge (631-653-4771, quoguewildliferefuge.org)

"Make sure they are enrolled early and reserved in their child's camp of choice. Fill out reservation forms and deposits. Some parents are also now enrolling their children in private riding lessons to better prepare their children for camp. They will have more of a sense of confidence if they already know the camp location, facility and have taken part in a lesson so they know what more to expect. I also hold an open house a couple of times so that parents and their children can come and visit, meet me and the horses. That normally

gives them more peace of mind as well. Also helps them get excited and motivated for the summer camp. Parents can make sure that their child will have all the appropriate camp attire and supplies for when camp begins. Also a camp survival kit... fly spray, tick block, sunscreen. Supply plenty of water and healthy snacks/lunch daily for camp." —Joanne Jimenez, Jimenez Jumpers (239-207-1664, jimenezjumpers.com)

Find more information on East End summer camps on DansPapers.com.



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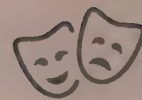


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Area Artists "Takeover" Southampton Arts Center

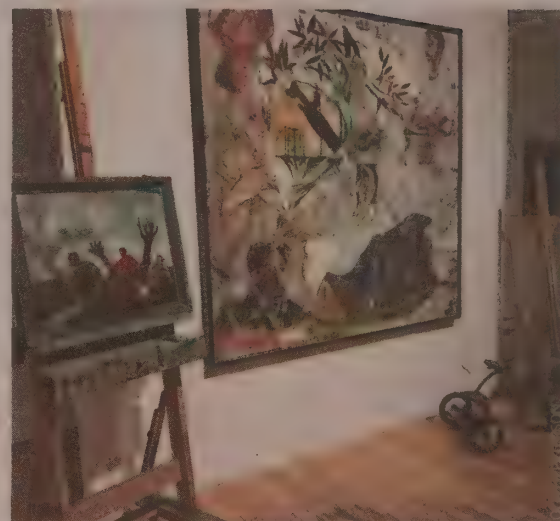
Few can deny the pleasure of viewing beautiful or compelling art on museum walls and pedestals, but sophisticated collectors and curators can't get the full scope of an artist without visiting their studio. The arrangement of paints, brushes and tools, works-in-progress and the objects and inspiration throughout a space disclose much about the artist at its center.

With this in mind, Southampton Arts Center's (SAC) first exhibition of 2019, *Takeover! Artists in Residence* welcomes nine East End artists to install pop-up studio spaces inside the museum where they'll work and show for six weeks through Sunday, March 24. The show marks SAC Artistic Director Amy Kirwin's curatorial debut and features a

range of styles and media from Scott Bluedorn, Daniel Cabrera, Darlene Charneco, Kara Hoblin, Ruby Jackson, Laurie Lambrecht, Jerome Lucani, Paton Miller and Jeff Muhs.

Each artist prepared his or her area—dropping off easels, tools and supplies, personal items and finished works—leading up to the opening reception Saturday, February 9 from 5–7 p.m. From there, "They'll all try to spend as much time as they can here," Kirwin says.

Artists may work and play in their temporary studios whenever a SAC staff member is onsite, but they've also committed to weekly studio time slots. An online schedule allows visitors to see when particular artists are working, but if all goes



PATON MILLER'S WORKSPACE

well, guests can expect plenty of unscheduled surprises.

"If we're here, they can be here," Kirwin says, pointing out that certain artists are between studios right now, so SAC will be their only workspace. "The idea of being able to go into an artist's studio—it's such a rare opportunity not afforded to most people," she says.

Even if an artist isn't there, visitors can enjoy a firsthand look into the studios, each full of life and in a constant state of flux. "It's a bit of the unexpected," Kirwin says of the evolving exhibition. "It's about pulling back the curtain and being immersed in that process."

Kirwin carefully selected her featured artists to represent a broad spectrum of age and approach. Most have participated in SAC's annual East End Collected group exhibition, curated by Paton Miller, who is also showing in *Takeover!* "They all know each other," she says. "They have a rapport that's very humorous."

This easy interaction will be on full display during planned *Takeover!* hangouts, where artists gather after hours, every Thursday, February 14–March 21 from 6–8 p.m., to paint, sip drinks, play Ping-Pong—whatever.

"I love visiting my friends' studios. I love seeing their tools," Miller says. "It's like visiting Frankenstein's laboratory...you get a view into the artist's process." The painter is excited by Kirwin's concept, and his space is ready. Miller delivered finished paintings and furnishings, including paint-spattered worktables and easels, a beat-up, pleather easy chair, and an antique tricycle used as a drawing prop for his students. "I've been teaching for 35 years," Miller says, explaining how he intends to paint and teach in his SAC space. "It's just a continuation of what I do normally."

Along with bringing in students and friends, some artists are embracing the communal aspect of *Takeover!* and working together on special projects. Scott Bluedorn and Daniel Cabrera, for example, are building a Peruvian reed boat using local phragmites to create something useful with the invasive species.

A multimedia artist who regularly collaborates with others and curates shows, Bluedorn says Kirwin's idea for *Takeover!* injects much-needed, outside-the-box thinking into the local arts scene. "It's something I'm really surprised hasn't happened before out here," he says. "It's the future of what these institutions should be aiming for. I think it's right on."

SAC Executive Director Tom Dunn agrees. "I think it's the perfect show for us," he says. "It's exactly what Southampton Arts Center should be doing."

BY OLIVER PETERSON

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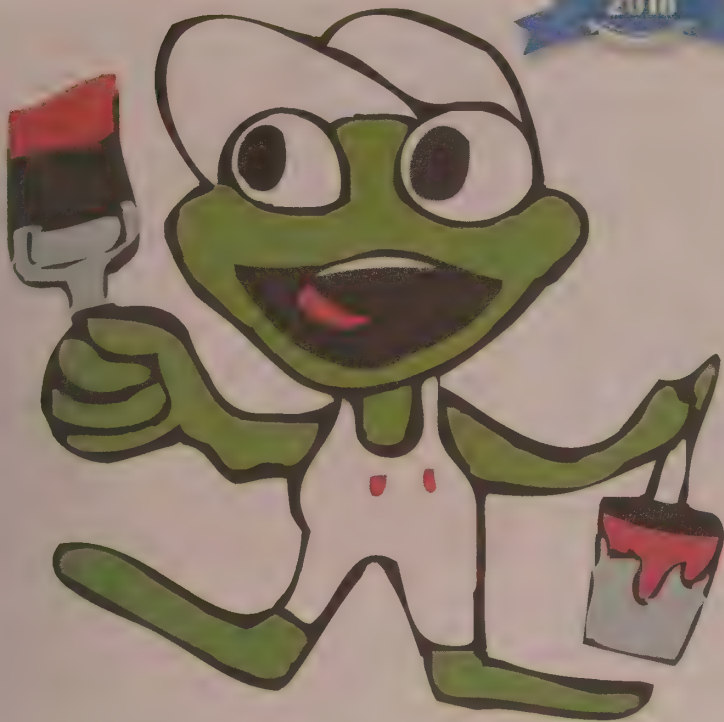
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MTN Matchmaking's Maureen Tara Nelson Believes in Love

When dating has been simplified to the point of swiping right or left on your phone, it can be disheartening and difficult to find Mr. or Ms. Right. But in this fast and twitchy age of online and app dating, there's still hope for the, well, *hopeless* romantic out there. Maureen Tara Nelson, owner of Dan's Best of the Best winner MTN Matchmaking, still believes in love and has a proven method of making it happen for those seeking committed relationships.

Nelson, a relentlessly positive and empowering woman who has made more than 1,000 successful matches, began MTN Matchmaking 12 years ago as a way of helping people find compatibility and chemistry. But she didn't start out as a matchmaker; rather, she used her know-how of another industry to create a unique way of getting to know people. "I have used my training as a former pharmaceutical rep in my matching of my clients," explains Nelson. "They taught us we had five minutes to learn a doctor's personality, and we only had seven minutes with the doctor." Nelson matches people based on a three-step process she developed herself. "I specialize upon three parts of compatibility, and a person's five must-haves [in a partner]," she says. "I don't use a computer like other matchmakers, I hand-select matches."

Those three steps Nelson uses are



MAUREEN TARA NELSON

intuitive and straightforward. "The first step is the homework. When a client calls up, we have a very thorough screening process," she says. "So they have to pass the process before they come in for their free consultation. Once they pass the screening process, they're given homework to do—what their five best qualities are. The second part of their homework is to let us know the five must-haves of the guy or the girl. Every match I send out, they are compatible in three different ways and each match will have all five of their must-haves. That's why the program works so well. No other matchmaker knows how I do this. I developed it myself. The second step is my assessment of them when I meet with them, for at least an hour. Again, I'm using my pharmaceutical rep knowledge, I'm watching their body language, and their nonverbal communication...they can basically talk about anything so I can get to know their personality. The third part of the compatibility analysis is a personality test that I do on all of my clients. I do it the night I meet with them, so it's fresh in my mind. And I don't need them for that. Thousands of people have asked me which personality test I use; I'm not going to give that up!"

As for those wondering if a matchmaking service is for them, Nelson notes that her clientele range from ages 21-87. But Nelson doesn't


I'm watching their body language and their nonverbal communication...they can basically talk about anything so I can get to know their personality.

accept everyone who inquires about her service. "Every one is a nice, positive person. Every one is emotionally stable. They know what they want. Most people recognize the people that are on the internet dating sites don't know what they want, and that's why if things get too close, they head for the hills; that's called ghosting. So all of my clients are coming in here, paying money and proving to me that they know what they want. Every one is financially stable or very financially stable," Nelson says. MTN Matchmaking fees start at just under \$1,000, so it's an investment, but one that Nelson believes helps weed out people who aren't going to be committed. Unlike most matchmakers, Nelson shows photos of her clients prior to matching. Nelson has also matched celebrities, and emphasizes that she believes in every client's privacy and safety. And Nelson is now expanding her service to include same-sex couples in the coming months.

Finding love can be hard, but Nelson is a true believer. "It's a 15-hour day for me, but I love it and I choose to do it," she says. "I'm very blessed."

BY LEE MEYER

For more information on MTN Matchmaking, visit mtnmatchmaking.com.

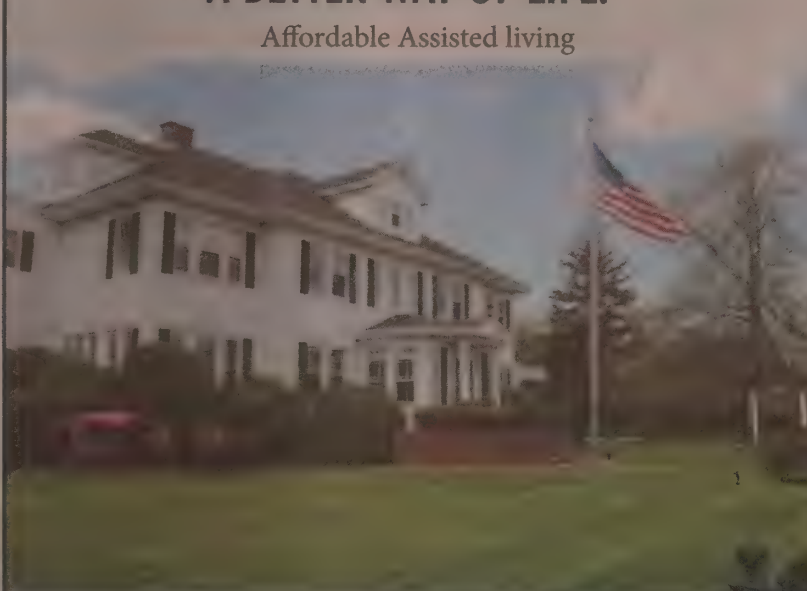


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Friends and lovers share so much, why should the enjoyment of dessert be the exception? Our East End restaurants offer a bevy of options for sharing every sweet, memorable bite.

Gazing out at the tumbling surf and the long stretch of pristine beach at **Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa**, even with the chill of winter in the air, has been known to invoke visions of Caribbean escape. Their award-winning **Scarpetta Beach** restaurant makes that vicarious trip to the islands complete with the first shared bite of their **Coconut Panna Cotta** with caramelized pineapple and guava "soup." This is a journey you definitely don't want to take alone. *Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa, 290 Old Montauk Highway, Montauk, gurneysresorts.com*

The **Nutella Turnover** is a sweet ending to a delish **Café Crust** experience. A large, warm, flaky pastry with hazelnut Nutella filling is cut into multiple pieces and served with a light raspberry sauce. It's meant to be shared, but we won't judge if you want it all for yourself. *Café Crust, 850 County Road 39, Southampton, cafe-crust.com*

Keeping with the Nutella theme, we can't recommend **Toast Coffeehouse's Krispy Nutella French Toast** enough! With a crispy rice coating, drizzled with Nutella and garnished with fresh strawberries,



ONE SPICY COOKIE FROM BISTRO ÉTÉ

this is the perfect caper to an eggs Benedict dish or other savory delight. *Toast Coffeehouse, 46 East Main Street, Patchogue and 242 East Main Street, Port Jefferson, toastcoffeehouse.com*

The best desserts to share with your Valentine are the ones you can also take home to share in private, right? Chocolate sauce comes immediately to mind. But a handy "hot" chocolate gourmet dessert are the **Hot Chocolate Chip Cookies** with cayenne at **Bistro Été** in Water Mill. Cayenne is considered the ultimate, spicy-hot aphrodisiac...*Bistro Été, 760 Montauk Highway, bistroete.com*

There are desserts to share, and then there are desserts that simply must be shared. The **bread pudding** at **GoodFood**. ("good food period") in Mattituck should never be eaten alone. It's just so rich. Did we mention that the "bread" is croissants...chocolate croissants? You're starting to get the picture. Go slow and enjoy every rich, creamy moment with a friend. *Good Food, 535 Pike Street, Mattituck, gfperiod.com*

Sometimes a dessert is so good you don't want to share it, but you do want to share the experience of it. Such a dessert has been on the menu at **The American Hotel** in Sag Harbor officially forever. A true classic, their **Floating Islands** are a delight every time. The "AH" has been (unofficially) voted the number one East End restaurant at which to pop the BIG question. Maybe you'll find a certain ring afloat on your island—dot, dot, dot. *The American Hotel, 45 Main Street, Sag Harbor, theamericanhotel.com*

Seemingly created with the idea of sharing in mind, the **Cheesecake Tasting** at **The Clubhouse** in East Hampton offers a trio of adorable individual cakes in a variety of flavors, including plain, Oreo, Reese's, coconut, key lime and caramel pretzel. A happy couple—or even a throuple—can choose three and share them all, or keep them separate. But what fun is that? *The Clubhouse, 174 Daniels Hole Road, East Hampton, ehitchclubhouse.com* **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

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Food & Drink

Desserts (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

What could be more romantic than a milkshake with two straws? Pull this classic move with a shake that's anything but typical at **Union Burger Bar** in Southampton, where the **"Real Deal" dessert shakes**—such as the Big Blue Bunny with vanilla ice cream, a rainbow sprinkle-frosted rim, and ice cream cone "ears," or the Not Sorry, a peanut butter shake with peanut butter cups and a Nutella- and Reese's Pieces-frosted rim—scream for Instagram immortality. Along with many more Real Deal and classic options, couples can share Boozy Shakes, like the Shakey Bailey (a cookies & cream milkshake, Baileys Irish cream and Stoli Vanil vodka) or the Drunken Jelly Doughnut with vanilla ice cream blended with jelly doughnuts and Chambord. Make those straws extra thick and bring a spoon. *Union Burger Bar, 40 Bowden Square, Southampton, unionburgerbar.com*

With sweet treats and shades of red sprinkles everywhere you look as Valentine's Day approaches, your subconscious is likely beginning to form an intense craving for a light, fluffy slice of **red velvet cake**. **Baron's Cove's** take on this scarlet delicacy has a delicate chocolate flavor and butter cream cheese frosting—a match made in heaven—and when topped with its Valentine's-exclusive blood orange sauce, your taste buds will sing hallelujah! Of course this cake delights diners year-round. *Baron's Cove, 31 West Water Street, Sag Harbor, baronscove.com*

If you're looking for a treat that's not chocolate or ice cream, selecting a sharable dessert can be a bit tricky. Unless, that is, you're dining at **Rumba**, in which case their award-winning **key lime pie** is an inspired choice. With a soft graham cracker crust and whipped cream topped with crushed pecans, this semi-tart treat



MILKSHAKES FROM UNION BURGER BAR

is the epic conclusion to an evening of fine Caribbean cuisine. Grab two forks and dig in. *Rumba, 43 Canoe Place Road, Hampton Bays, rumbahamptonbays.com*

Banana bread pudding is, in and of itself, proof that Cupid exists and is still working his magic on making perfect mergers come to fruition. When paired with the Mocha Cremeux and black walnut ice cream that **Topping Rose House** has brilliantly brought to this marriage, the dessert is transported to a truly

decadent level worthy of its own mythology. *Topping Rose House, 1 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton, toppingrosehouse.com*

Sometimes you're looking for a treat that's out of the ordinary to spice things up. If a slice of date cake seems like the perfect choice for date night, offering your better half a little more than half of **Claude's Sticky Toffee Date Cake** is the perfect move—made more extraordinary still if you're bold enough to ask for a little extra of the accompanying bourbon anglaise sauce. Sweet! *Claude's at the Southampton Inn, 91 Hill Street, Southampton, southamptoninn.com*

The Preston House's Dusted Beignets in a Brown Bag—which you can choose to enjoy with any or all of the indulgent dips (house-made Nutella, Meyer lemon, mixed berry)—are the culinary equivalent of that little present hiding its secrets inside a gift bag until just the right moment. Even in their pure sugar-dusted state, served warm at your table, these bite-size bits bring a little bit of the Big Easy right here to Riverhead. *The Preston House & Hotel, 428 East Main Street, Riverhead, theprestonhouseandhotel.com*

The secret to perfect **profiteroles** is a puff of pastry, light enough to be the definition of airy while having enough body to cradle the frozen treat inside without being overwhelmed by its creamy coldness. The secret to **Pierre's** take on this classic French dessert is grabbing an extra vanilla-ice-cream-filled pastry, drizzled in Belgian-style chocolate for yourself when your significant other is looking the other way. But who can take their eyes off these? *Pierre's, 2468 Main Street, Bridgehampton, prieresbridgehampton.com*

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BY STACY DERMONT

Food & Drink

New Books for East End Foodies to Savor

It's always sunny in the Hamptons. But, just in case a little rain—or snow—falls on your winter beach vacay, here are some recent foodie books that I highly recommend. They are all inspiring, informative and will have you running to the kitchen to try a few things. Then, as soon as the weather clears, you'll be sure to head to your garden or local farmers market.

I'm still digesting Amagansett resident **Gwyneth Paltrow's** new cookbook *The Clean Plate*, which was released last month. My primary takeaway is that it's probably a harbinger of the latest food-as-medicine trend. I was glad to find within it a succinct chart detailing what she regards as clean cooking, but I don't know that I could eat that much chicken. I'm not crazy about smoothies, perhaps particularly a Strawberry Cauliflower Smoothie. But Paltrow's Miso Soup was super easy to prepare and delish, so I might just try every recipe, smoothies and all. Paltrow asserts that in "writing this cookbook, the first rule was that everything had to taste really good."

If you live in the Hamptons, you know that, though we have a reputation as a WASP enclave, really, we're quite a heterogeneous bunch of people with uniquely differing backgrounds and experiences.

And if, like me, you travel in Hamptons circles that hold potluck dinners and read *The New York Times*, you've also discovered the joys of **Christina Ward's** new book *American Advertising Cookbooks*.

First reported about by East Hampton's Florence Fabricant in the *Times*, this deeply researched work explores an aspect of American culture that seems to hold a universal fascination among Hamptonites—inappropriate consumption and bad food. Specifically, things like "perfection salad," Jell-O molded around

a bevy of ingredients, including meat, and filling babies' bottles with Coke.

As disturbing as it is entertaining, this exploration of how corporate America hijacked 20th century kitchens is lousy with hilariously outmoded images and slogans. It's the talk at every gathering on the East End these days.

I read *The New Farm, Our Ten Years on the Front Lines of the Good Food Revolution* by **Brent Preston** in two sittings. It's not a short book. I did take breaks to make tea and to eat some raw carrots.

The minute I was done reading this book, I went out, turned my compost heap and then put a wheelbarrow load of compost on my garden. Compost is renewal and hope.

Preston tells the tale, warts and all, of how he and his wife started an idealistic, little organic farm on a hill two hours northwest of Toronto. And how, after 10 years, they transformed it into an organic farm that really worked. Through cold and muck, and encounters



HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT PERFECTION SALAD?

with varmints, and not a little marital strife, they found their sweet spot.

This is a great book to read if you've ever wondered where the red and purple carrots at your favorite high-end restaurant came from, or if you've ever dreamed of starting your own farm. If it's possible, I have even more respect for the work of organic farmers now.

As Americans, we may not be able to identify with the degree of excitement Preston experienced when The Tragically Hip performed a concert in his barn, but Preston's invitation to learn from his mistakes offers a wealth of gardening tips that apply here on the East Coast.

Sadly, this book demonstrates why Canada is a much more hospitable social environment for legal migrant workers and for organic growers.

It's a lot to chew on. 🍷

Read hundreds more of Stacy's "Hamptons Epicure" columns on DansPapers.com.



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American \$\$\$

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THE SPRINGS TAVERN

American \$\$

This popular gathering place opens its bar daily at 3 p.m., offering a Happy Hour bar menu 3-6 p.m. every day. Dinner is served daily 4-9:30 p.m. and lunch on weekends from noon. Don't miss their Open Mic on Sundays 2-5 p.m. 15 Fort Pond Boulevard, East Hampton. **631-527-7800**, thespringstavern.com

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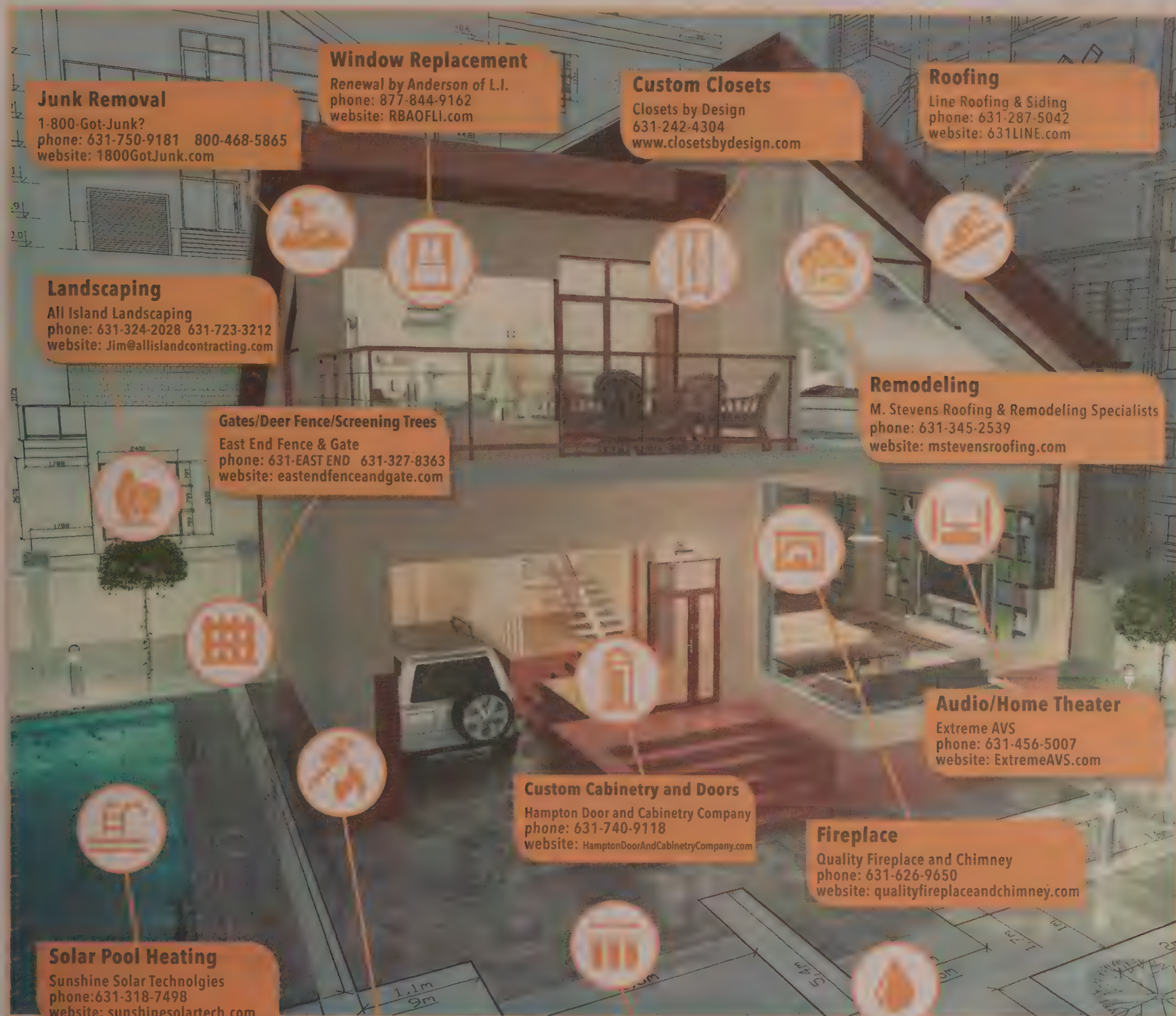
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Check out DansPapers.com for more dining listings and news.

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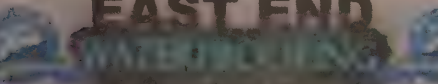
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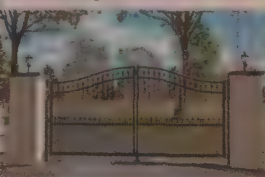
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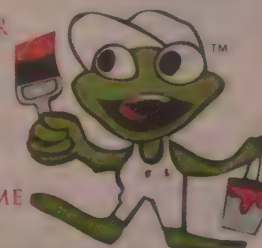
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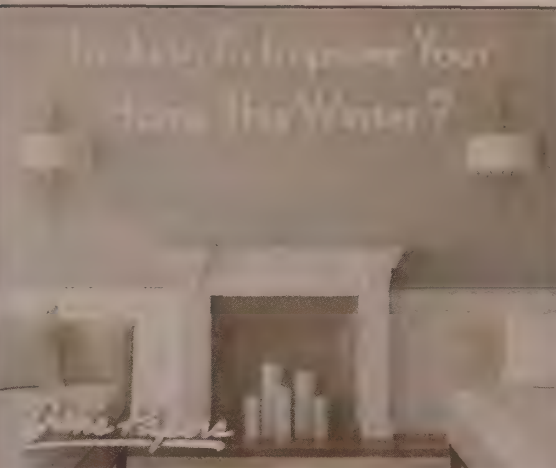
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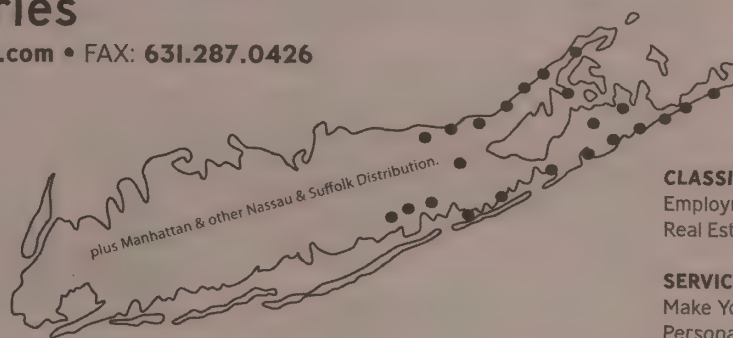
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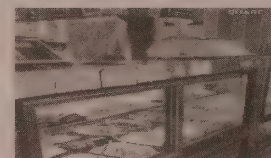
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Ten Questions with Nest Seekers Agent Douglas Sabo

Douglas Sabo, an agent with Nest Seekers in Southampton, won the Privet Hedge award for Rookie of the Year in 2017. He spends two to three nights each week in the city, where he works as a classically trained singer. A tenor, Sabo's favorite operas are *Elixir of Love* by Donizetti and *Tosca* by Puccini. The original Zeffirelli production of *Tosca* was the first opera he ever saw, at the age of 16, and, he says, "It blew me away."

Where did you grow up?

My parents grew up renting with their family or friends during the summers and they actually met each other here. They bought their house in Southampton while they were still living in my grandmother's basement in Queens and working in the city. We split our week between Manhasset and Southampton because of their jobs, so we would come out every weekend, holiday and, of course, the summers.

How did you wind up in the Hamptons?

I made the decision to move back home to Southampton after I finished grad school in Boston. It was the perfect fit for what I was looking for.

What did you do before you were an agent?

I went to school for vocal performance in classical music and opera. I sing with different opera companies in New York City and the surrounding area. I was fortunate to live in Italy, Austria and Rio de Janeiro for my classical studies. I worked at the Ross School between my undergrad and graduate degree as a house parent and teacher and while I was in Boston I worked as a chorus teacher in a local high school. When I moved back home, I was fortunate to be asked to join Nest Seekers and it was a perfect fit.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm normally in Manhattan rehearsing for an upcoming performance. I like to travel, as well as do something outside whether it be hiking, kayaking, surfing or skiing.

If you weren't an agent, what would be your dream job?

I love that real estate allows me to both be an agent as well as work as an opera singer. Now if I weren't doing either, I would love to work in international travel—experiencing new cultures and foods and helping others experience that.

What are some of the best things about being an agent in the Hamptons?

Location! We get to work in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We are spoiled that we get to live here year-round. I'm also fortunate that I get to live near my family.

What are some drawbacks to being an agent?

The biggest drawback is overcoming the perception that some people have of real estate agents. Whether people think it's easy and you are just a door opener, or that you're looking to take advantage. I work with my clients closely to show them that taking advantage of them is the last thing I would want to do, and that I have their best interest throughout the process, whether that's renting, buying or selling.

What's the best advice you ever received?

Simply to show up. This works in all areas of your life. It's easy to say you want to do something—



DOUGLAS SABO

getting in shape, learning a language, following a certain path in life—but so many people will fall back on excuses that stop them from getting there. You have to ignore all the excuses you can make for yourself and show up. That's the only way you will be successful.

What do you think of the Hamptons real estate market right now?

I think the market is going through a correction on the high end of the market, which isn't a bad thing. It does mean that you need to price your listing so you can beat out the competition and successfully

move your property. In the lower end of the market there's less competition, so properties are moving pretty quickly if priced well.

Will 2019 be a good year in real estate?

I think 2019 will be a great year for real estate in the Hamptons; any time there's a correction in the market smart investors will find opportunities. There are deals to be had, and those looking closely will find them. I've also seen a lot of inquiries come in early for summer rentals, so I'm expecting the rental market to be more robust than it has been the past few seasons.

For more info on Nest Seekers, visit nestseekers.com. Visit BehindtheHedges.com for more real estate news and features.

BY LAURA EULER



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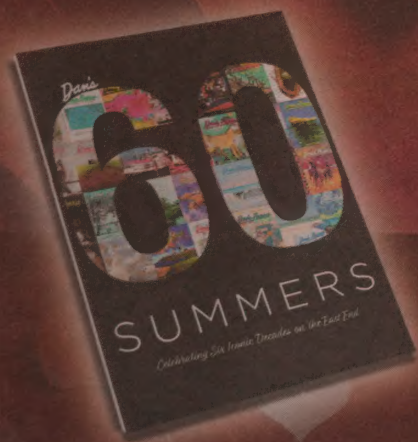
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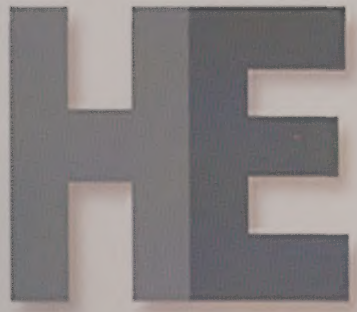
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